

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-13, 21, and 22 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 13, 21, and 22 are independent.

Claims 14-20 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-13, 21, and 22 are allowed.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,038,800 to Ono et al. (“Ono”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,719,688 to Kagami (“Kagami”). These rejections are respectfully traversed. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the application, Applicants hereby cancel claims 14-20 without prejudice to pursuing these claims, in whole or in part, or similar claims in a continuing application such as a continuation application.

Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections of claims 14-20 are rendered moot.

Comments on the Examiner’s Statement of Reasons for the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-13, 21 and 22 are allowed. In the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, the Examiner indicates that the prior art fails to anticipate or suggest features recited in the allowed claims. To the extent that the stated reasons agree with the language of the claims, and further recognizing that there may be other, unstated reasons why the claims are allowable, Applicants agree with the stated reasons.

Furthermore, each of the allowed claims includes particular features and particular claim language, and therefore each allowed claim has a scope that is different from the others. Also, although not mentioned by the Examiner, the dependent claims each include additional patentable limitations that further define the invention.

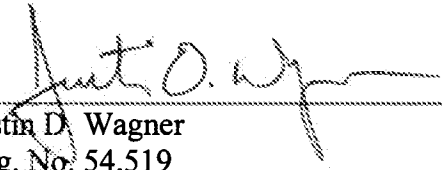
Conclusion

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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